

For Immediate Release Thursday, March 5, 2015 **MEDIA CONTACT:** Stephanie Wilson

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Time is Running Out to File for Financial Aid for College

FAFSA Deadline for Student Aid Tues. March 10, 2015

Nearly \$300 million in state financial aid for college is available this year for Indiana students who qualify. To receive financial aid, students *must* complete the <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</u>—or the FAFSA—by Tues. March 10, 2015.

Unfortunately, too many students fail to complete the FAFSA—either because they don't know they should, they don't know how or they just miss the deadline.

"With the FAFSA deadline less than one week away, we're encouraging high schools, parents and communities to help spread the word and make sure current and potential students complete the form now," Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers said.

Every high school senior—whether they believe they qualify for needs-based funding or not—should complete the FAFSA. Beyond determining state and federal financial aid, colleges use information from the FAFSA to determine their scholarship awards.

2015 FAFSA Facts

- 46% of all Indiana high school seniors have completed the FAFSA so far this year.
 - o 64% of high school seniors completed the FAFSA in 2014.
 - At 16 Indiana high schools, at least 90% of students have completed the FAFSA.
- 21st Century Scholars must complete the FAFSA by the March 10, 2015 deadline to activate their college scholarships and annually to maintain their Scholar status.
 - o So far, 45% of 21st Century Scholars who are seniors have completed the FAFSA.

Students, parents and educators can submit FAFSA-related questions via phone (1-800-992-2076), email (fafsa@learnmore.org), Twitter (@learnmorein) or Facebook (facebook.com/learnmorein).

For more helpful information on the FAFSA and other financial aid resources and tips, access Learn More Indiana's Cash for College website at CashForCollegeIndiana.org. The site offers a free tools and advice for K-12 students, current college students and returning adult students—including the Indiana College Costs Estimator. Learn how you can prepare to pay at CashForCollegeIndiana.org.

Cash for College

Cash for College is Indiana's annual financial literacy campaign that starts December 1 and goes through Indiana's March 10th financial aid filing deadline for the FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Find resources on paying for college, the Indiana College Costs Estimator and filing the FAFSA at CashforCollegeIndiana.org.

Learn More Indiana

Led by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Learn More Indiana is a partnership of state and local organizations working to help Hoosiers of all ages complete education and training beyond high school. Learn more at <u>LearnMoreIndiana.org</u>.